Journey to the Falls Student Activity: Math

Minneapolis Lumber- Building the Midwest

Part 2A: Rounding off, calculations

Lumber Milled in Minneapolis

- 1.) Round off the number of board feet to the nearest 100 million. The exception is the year 1857. That year is rounded to the nearest 25,000,000 and is already done for you.
- 2.) Write your answer in the column titled "Rounded off #"

Year	Board Feet	Rounded off #
1857	12,000,000	25,000,000
1867	77,419,548	
1876	200,371,277	
1888	337,663,301	
1899	594,373,000	
1910	100,000,000	
1920	0	

What was all the lumber used for?

Mr. DeLaittre, a Minneapolis lumberman, tells us that one lumber camp cut about 5,000,000 board feet in one year. In 1900 a 2-story house would use about 12,000 board feet of lumber.

How many houses could be built from the lumber of that one camp?

Do the math and write your answer on the line. Round off to the nearest 100 and write that amount on the line and circle it.

Between 1839 and 1932, Minnesota's forests were turned into 67,500,000,000 (67½ billion) feet of lumber. That's 5½ million 2-story houses!

What else was the lumber used for?

Beside houses, the lumber was used to make barrels, pails, window frames, doors, window blinds, shingles, wooden buckets, other containers, railroad ties, electric poles, grain elevators, stores and businesses, furniture, tools (the handles for hammers, saws, screw drivers, etc.) and even sidewalks!

What are those items made of today? Where do those materials come from? The lumber industry provided many jobs beyond sawing down the tress and working in a sawmill. Thousands of people found work building houses and making other products that used wood.

Journey to the Falls, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 2009

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Journey to the Falls Teacher Guide: Math

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Part 2A: Rounding off, calculations

Answer Sheet:

Lumber Milled in Minneapolis

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Answers:

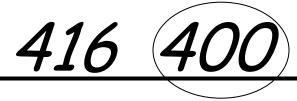
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Minneapolis Lumber- Building the Midwest

Part 2B: Making a graph

Student Directions:

Now take the rounded off amounts from the previous activity and color in the graph. The year 1857 is done for you.

Board Feet of

1857	1867	1876	1000	1899	1910	1920
	1957	1957 1967	1957 1967 1976	1857 1867 1876 1888	4957 4957 4976 4999 4900	4957 4967 4976 4999 4990 4040

Year

Minneapolis became the #1 city in sawmilling (lumbering) in 1899. That meant Minneapolis cut more trees (logs) into lumber than any other city in the whole United States. Actually, Minneapolis was #1 in the world until 1905. Six busy years! After that the amount of lumber milled in Minneapolis began to decline.

Why was that?

Most of the trees that were cut down in Minneapolis were hundreds of years old. People thought there were enough trees to last forever. The cut down forests would take a long time to re-grow. Sadly, there were not enough trees to last forever.

Of course trees were not just useful for lumber. They were part of a unique ecosystem of plants, animals, insects and birds. You can learn more about ecosystems along the Mississippi River by reading the book, **The Mississippi River**, by Maria Mudd Ruth.



Journey to the Falls Teacher Guide: Math

Minneapolis Lumber- Building the Midwest

Part 2B: Making a graph

Board Feet of Lumber

Lumber		ſ	Î	
600,000,000				
550,000,000				
500,000,000				
450,000,000				
400,000,000				
350,000,000				
300,000,000				
250,000,000				
200,000,000,				
150,000,000				
100,000,000				
75,000,000				
50,000,000				
25,000,000				

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Teacher note: The activities *Web of Life* and *Birds Beaks and Adaptations* in the Big River Teacher's Guide and on-line at www.nps.gov are good introductory activities to ecosystems.

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